

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a design list for a plurality of network servers, the design list comprising functions of the network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

generating a plurality of network designs for the plurality of network servers based upon a design rule and the design list, further comprising receiving a first network design of the plurality of network designs, and wherein the design rule determines a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a network location such that the gateway server is first in receiving all incoming data packets to the network[[:]];

configuring software and hardware settings for the plurality of network servers in the network, the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of the software and hardware settings based upon the design rule and the first network design wherein the software and hardware settings are determined to provide cohesive network settings operable to interconnect the plurality of network servers;

building a respective digital image with the software and hardware settings for each of the plurality of servers, each design corresponding to a digital image for a respective network server, the plurality of servers having a different server type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar operations; and

deploying each of the respective digital images onto the plurality of servers from a single user action.

- 2.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital image is dynamically built from at least one generic digital image to include at least one custom application.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
deploying the dynamically built digital image over a network connection in response to a netboot request from the first server.

9.-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the number of WAN IP addresses is fewer than number of the servers in the network.

23.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A computer apparatus having a computer readable storage medium encoded with a set of instructions that, when executed by a processor in the computer, cause the computer to perform a method, the computer apparatus comprising:

a graphic user interface having a function to receive a design list for a plurality of network servers, the design list comprising functions of the network, amount of hardware for the network, type of hardware for the network, and number of WAN IP addresses assigned to the network;

design rule logic having design instructions, wherein the design instructions determine a first server in the network is a gateway server layered in a network location such that the gateway server is first to receive all incoming data packets to the network[[:]];

network topology logic having a function to generate a plurality of network designs for the plurality of network servers according to the design list and the design instructions, wherein a first design of the plurality of network designs is selected through the graphic user interface;

configuration logic to configure software and hardware settings for the plurality of network servers in the network, the software and hardware settings including switches, jumpers, IP address, links, ports and values of software parameters, the configuration of the software and hardware settings based upon the design instructions and the first network design;

digital image building logic to build a respective digital image with the software and hardware settings for each of the plurality of servers, each design corresponding to a digital image for a respective network server, the plurality of servers having a different server type than the first server and operable to support dissimilar operations; and

deployment logic to deploy each of the respective digital images onto the plurality of servers from a single user action, the second server accessible to network traffic via the first server.

26.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of WAN IP addresses [[being]] is fewer than the number of servers in the network and wherein configuring network settings comprising comprises sending a request to a Domain Name System server.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the design rule logic instructing determines how a server in a network can or cannot be employed in the network.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the design rule logic having further includes instructions to determine how a server in the network can or cannot be employed in the network.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the configuration logic installs network translation software on a third server in the network, wherein the network translation software routes data packets to and from a virtual IP address of the network.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining server type, the server type indicative of the configured parameters.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein deploying further comprises deploying images for a plurality of servers at substantially the same time, the plurality of servers including servers of a dissimilar server type.

40. (Canceled)

41. (New) A computer-implemented method for configuring and deploying network servers, the method comprising:

configuring software settings for a plurality of network servers, at least two of which have different server functions, based upon a network design specifying functions of each of the plurality of network servers and a number of assigned WAN IP addresses, and based upon a selected network topology, settings for each server being configured to implement the selected network topology and server function using the number of assigned WAN IP addresses;

building a respective configured digital image for each of the plurality of network servers by importing a generic digital image corresponding to a given server function and incorporating the corresponding software configuration settings to implement the selected network topology and server function; and

deploying each configured digital image to a corresponding one of the plurality of network servers.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising:

incorporating network translation software into the configured digital image if the number of assigned WAN IP addresses is less than a number of components specified in the network design.

43. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising:

building the respective configured digital image for each server and deploying each configured digital image without user intervention.

44. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising selecting a network topology from a list of potential network topologies wherein the potential network topologies are determined by

network topology logic based on the number and function of the plurality of network servers in the network design.

45. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein configuring comprises configuring the plurality of servers to be aware of other components within the network and linked to one or more of the other components within the network to produce a server farm after the configured digital images are deployed to corresponding servers.

46. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising automatically installing each configured digital image on a corresponding server after deploying.

47. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein deploying is performed in response to a netboot request.

48. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein at least one of the plurality of servers functions as a firewall server and wherein configuring comprises incorporating rules that govern what is allowed and what is not allowed through the firewall into the configured digital image.